

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7742

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1852

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PFOR, CY, GR, UK, UN, CAN

SUBJECT: PAPADOPOULOS' STATEMENT AND ITS AFTERMATH

REF: STATE 169299; NICOSIA 1836; ATHENS 5990

SUMMARY: WE SEE POSSIBILITY OF CAUTIOUS RAPPROCHEMENT
IN GOG AND GOC ACTIONS FOLLOWING PAPADOPOULOS' AUGST 24 "APPEAL"
TO GRIVAS

1. PAPADOPOULOS' STATEMENT - WE CAN'T QUARREL WITH SUCCESS,
BUT WE WONDER WHETHER PAPADOPOULOS STATEMENT (ATHENS REFTEL)
RESULTED FROM UK APPROACH (STATE REFTEL), OR WAS RESULT HIS

PERCEPTION OF GROWING MAKARIOS STRENGTH AND DAMAGE THAT
AMBIVALENCE ABOUT GRIVAS WAS DOING TO GOG INTERESTS.

2. BOTH LAGACOS ARRIVAL STATEMENT AUGUST 23 (NICOSIA 1827) AND
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PAPADOPOULOS DECLARATION NEXT DAY SUGGEST THAT "PACIFICATION"

OF ALL ILLEGAL GROUPS ON ISLAND IS NOW PRIORITY GOAL FOR GOG IN ITS CONTINUING EFFORT PUSH FOR INTERCOMMUNAL SETTLEMENT. MAKARIOS WELCOMED PAPADOPOULOS DECLARATION. WHAT GOG GOT IN RETURN WE CANNOT YET ANSWER.

3. MAKARIOS' VISIT TO ATHENS - MEANWHILE, PIO-INSPIRED PRESS STORIES TODAY AND OUR CONTACTS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SAY THAT MAKARIOS WILL VISIT ATHENS AROUND MID-SEPTEMBER. (PRESS REPORTS THAT LAGACOS CONVEYED INVITATION DURING MEETING WITH MAKARIOS AUGUST 24.) NEW PUBLIC STRESS ON COMMON ATHENS/NICOSIA LINE, WHILE OBVIOUSLY SERVING AS FURTHER LEVER AGAINST GRIVAS BLOC, MAY IN FACT REFLECT RAPPROCHEMENT OF SORS UNDERWAY. WE NOTE IN THIS CONNECTION THAT ONE DAY AFTER AUGUST 24 APPEAL GOC RELEASED TO PRESS CONGRATULATORY NOTE DATED AUGUST 20 FROM MAKARIOS TO PAPADOPOULOS ON LATTER'S ASSUMING OFFICE OF PRESIDENT. THIS WAS MAKARIOS' FIRST ENDORSEMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES IN GREECE.

4. REACTION FROM GRIVAS CAMP - RIGHTIST "ETHNIKI" CONTINUES TRUMPET DEFIANCE OF APPEAL AND, POSSIBLY AS RUSE TO DIVERT AND/OR ALARM ATHENS AND ANKARA, HAS RECENTLY RAISED CHARGE THAT GOC ATTEMPTING TO SECURE USE OF CZECH ARMS UNDER UNFICYP CUSTODY AND ALSO PLANNING IMPORT MORE ARMS. BOTH CHARGES DENIED BY ACTION PIO AUGUST 26. TODAY "ETHNIKI" PLAYS UP ARTICLE FROM ATHENS "ESTIA" CLAIMING THAT PAPADOPOULOS ISSUED STATEMENT UNDER US-UK PRESSURE AND THAT MEETING IN ATHENS NEXT MONTH PART OF AMERICAN PLAN TO SCOTCH ENOSIS FOR GOOD.

5. ON AUGUST 26 GRIVAS ISSUED PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO PAPADOPOULOS APPEAL WHICH CAME CLOSE TO REJECTION; HE PROMISED A DEFINITIVE ANSWER SHORTLY. GRIVAS EXPLAINED RELEASE OF VAKIS AS GESTURE OF GOOD WILL AND REFLECTION OF GENERAL'S DESIRE FOR NORMALIZATION OF DOMESTIC SCENE AND "DEMOCRATID" RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES. WARNING THAT RELEASE SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS SIGN OF WEAKNESS, GRIVAS DARKLY HINTED THAT CIVIL WAR MIGHT RESULT IF MAKARIOS DOES NOT ACCEPT MEASURES HE HAD EARLIER SUGGESTED (I.E. FIVE POINTS--SEE NICOSIA 1694) FOR RESOLUTION OF NATIONAL QUESTION
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AND DOMESTIC ISSUES. WE THINK GRIVAS STATEMENT UNLIKELY TO OFFSET IMPACT OF PAPADOPOULOS APPEAL AMONG THE UNCOMMITTED AND ENOSIST FAITHFUL IN CYPRUS. POSSIBLY GENERAL IS WAITING FOR FURTHER INDICATION OF GOC POSITION BEFORE FORMULATING HIS DEFINITIVE RESPONSE.

6. RELEASE OF VADIS- AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, WE VIEW AUGUST 26 RELEASE OF MINISTER VAKIS AS FACE-SAVING OUT FOR

GRIVAS. OVER PAST MONTH VAKIS HAD CLEARLY BECOME AS EMBARRASSEMENT FOR HIM. GOC HAD FLATLY SPRUNED HIS FIVE POINTS. (POSITED AS PRECONDITION FOR RELEASE) AND PUBLIC PRESSURE MOUNTING. TIMING OF RELEASE IN APPARENT RESPONSE TO PAPADOPOULOS' APPEAL (RIGHTIST PRESS CALLED IT "INDIRECT" REPLY) HAD ADVANTAGE OF REDUCING PUBLIC DEFEAT FOR GRIVAS ON OTHER SIDE, VAKIS' CRYPTIC STATEMENT AFTER RELEASE (NICOSIA REFTEL) MAY HAVE BEEN PRICE HE HAD TO PAY TO SECURE FREEDOM. TO DAY, MINISTER HAS NOT PUBLICLY CRITICIZED EITHER GRIVAS OR HIS CAPTORS.

7. NEW SECURITY SWEEPS - VAKIS RELEASE UNLIKELY CAUSE GOC TO LET UP IN ITS PRESSURE ON GRIVAS CAMP, ABSENT ANY FURTHER CONCILIATORY GESTURE FROM GENERAL. OVER WEEKEND TACTICAL RESERVE UNITS ARRESTED SOME 20 PERSONS IN FAMAGUSTA AREA; ON AUGUST 27 THEY NETTED 9 MORE IN NEW SWEEP IN KYRENIA DISTRICT.

8. COMMENT: DUE RECENT GOC PRESSURE AND LOSS OF SEVERAL IMPORTANT OPERATIVES, GRIVAS FORCES ALREADY APPEARED IN STATE OF SOME DISARRAY PRIOR AUGUST 24. RESPONSE OF GENERAL TO PAPADOPOULOS APPEAL INDICATES HE TRYING TO GAIN TIME AND MAY BE UNCERTAIN AS TO NEXT STEPS. WE TEND TO DISCOUNT RECENT EXPLANATIONS OFFERED BY RIGHTIST PRESS THAT CURRENT INACTIVITY IN ENOSIST CAMP REFLECTS OFFER OF "TRUCE" TO GOC. HOWEVER, THERE NO SIGN YET THAT GRIVAS MOVEMENT MORTALLY CRIPPLED AND WE THINK IT CAN

STILL EITHER UNDERTAKE CONTINUING NUISANCE ACTIONS OR ATTEMPT A MAJOR ACT OF DESPERATION. IN THIS REGARD, THE PEASANT BAROMETER ALLUDED TO IN STATE REFTEL DOES NOT GIVE CLEAR READING. GOC PROPAGANDA MAKES DAILY EFFORT TO CONVINCE PUBLIC THAT GRIVAS SUPPORTERS ARE DESERTING MOVEMENT IN CONFIDENTIAL

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DROVES BUT MAVAMIOS SUCCESSES RESULT MORE FROM CREATION AND USE OF TACTICAL RESERVE THAN FROM CHANGE OF PEASANT HEART. GRIVAS OFF BALANCE BUT STILL HAS MEN, ARMS, AND MOST OF ORGANIZATION. END COMMENT.
GRANT

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